

PARISH OF BLESSED JAMES BELL

*Serving St Benedict's, St Mary's & St Oswald's
Warrington*



Praying Holy Thursday at Home

Gospel *(John 13: 1-15)*
A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
R. Glory to you, O Lord.

It was before the festival of the Passover, and Jesus knew that the hour had come for him to pass from this world to the Father. He had always loved those who were his in the world, but now he showed how perfect his love was.

They were at supper, and the devil had already put it into the mind of Judas Iscariot son of Simon, to betray him. Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into his hands, and that he had come from God and was returning to God, and he got up from table, removed his outer garment and, taking a towel, wrapped it round his waist; he then poured water into a basin and began to wash the disciples' feet and to wipe them with the towel he was wearing. He came to Simon Peter, who said to him, 'Lord, are you going to wash my feet?' Jesus answered, 'At the moment you do not know what I am doing, but later you will understand.' 'Never!' said Peter 'You shall never wash my feet.' Jesus replied, 'If I do not wash you, you can have nothing in common with me.' 'Then, Lord,' said Simon Peter 'not only my feet, but my hands and my head as well!' Jesus said, 'No one who has taken a bath needs washing, he is clean all over. You too are clean, though not all of you are.' He knew who was going to betray him, that was why he said, 'though not all of you are.'

When he had washed their feet and put on his clothes again he went back to the table. 'Do you understand' he said 'what I have done to you? You call me Master and Lord, and rightly; so I am. If I, then, the Lord and Master, have washed your feet, you should wash each other's feet. I have given you an example so that you may copy what I have done to you.'

The Gospel of the Lord.

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

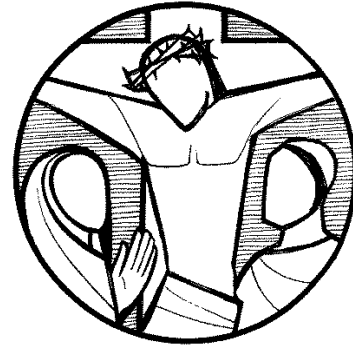
Silent Reflection

The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

God of love,
in the gift of your Eucharist
you have shown the depth of your love for us.
In the washing of feet,
you call us to share this love in our service of others.
Help us to bring your love
to those with whom we share our lives
and to all those in need.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

R. Amen.



Celebrating Good Friday at Home

Preparation

This prayer service is for an individual or for those who share a home together. It is based on the liturgy taking place in churches all over the world at 3.00 pm. There are three parts: the reading of the Passion, prayers for the Church and the world, and adoration of the Cross. A simple crucifix would be a good prayer focus.

The service begins with a short time of silence.

THE PASSION

(John 19: 17-18, 25-30)

The passion of our Lord Jesus Christ according to John

Carrying his own cross Jesus went out of the city to the place of the skull or, as it was called in Hebrew, Golgotha, where they crucified him with two others, one on either side with Jesus in the middle.

Near the cross of Jesus stood his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. Seeing his mother and the disciple he loved standing near her, Jesus said to his mother, 'Woman, this is your son.' Then to the disciple he said, 'This is your mother.' And from that moment the disciple made a place for her in his home.

After this, Jesus knew that everything had now been completed, and to fulfil the scripture perfectly he said: 'I am thirsty.' A jar full of vinegar stood there, so putting a sponge soaked in the vinegar on a hyssop stick they held it up to his mouth. After Jesus had taken the vinegar he said, 'It is accomplished;' and bowing his head he gave up his spirit.

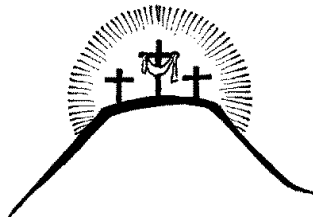
At this point, kneel or bow your head for a short time.

It was Preparation Day, and to prevent the bodies remaining on the cross during the sabbath — since that sabbath was a day of special solemnity — the Jews asked Pilate to have the legs broken and the bodies taken away. Consequently the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man who had been crucified with him and then of the other. When they came to Jesus, they found he was already dead, and so instead of breaking his legs one of the soldiers pierced his side with a lance; and immediately there came out blood and water. This is the evidence of one who saw it — trustworthy evidence, and he knows he speaks the truth — and he gives it so that you may believe as well.

Because all this happened to fulfil the words of scripture: 'Not one bone of his will be broken;' and again, in another place scripture says: 'They will look on the one whom they have pierced.'

After this, Joseph of Arimathaea, who was a disciple of Jesus — though a secret one because he was afraid of the Jews — asked Pilate to let him remove the body of Jesus. Pilate gave permission, so they came and took it away. Nicodemus came as well — the same one who had first come to Jesus at night-time — and he brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, weighing about a hundred pounds. They took the body of Jesus and wrapped it with the spices in linen cloths, following the Jewish burial custom.

Silent Reflection



THE PRAYERS

We now come to the Solemn Intercessions. These are the oldest prayers we have – they date back to the 2nd century. The following is a shortened version:

- 1 For the Church: that God may guard her, unite her, and help her to show his love and mercy.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 2 For Pope Francis: that God may keep him safe and help him to bring hope to all who believe.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 3 For Archbishop Malcom and his assistant bishops, for our priests and deacons, for those who live the consecrated life and for all the lay faithful: that we may walk in the light of the Gospel.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 4 For those preparing to be baptised, the children preparing for First Communion, young people preparing for confirmation, and couples getting ready for marriage.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 5 For the unity of Christians: that all who follow Christ may witness to his love and example.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**

- 6 For our Jewish brothers and sisters to whom the Lord spoke first: that he may help them to be faithful to his covenant.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 7 For those who do not believe in Christ: that they may walk with a sincere heart and seek the truth.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 8 For those who do not believe in God: that they may see the good works done by those who believe as a testament to God's love.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 9 For those in public office: that they may keep us safe and guide us in peace.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**
- 10 For those in any kind of tribulation: that God may watch over them and come to their aid.
Lord, in your mercy. **R. Hear our prayer.**



The Lord's Prayer

Now let us pray in the words Jesus himself gave us:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name;
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done
on earth as it is in heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread,
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

ADORATION OF THE CROSS



The service concludes with a simple veneration of the Cross. Invite those present to take hold of the crucifix in turn and venerate it with a gesture that is meaningful for them – this might be to kiss the Cross, or to hold it close, or simple to gaze upon it.

The service ends as it began in silence.

Acknowledgements

Scripture Readings from *The Jerusalem Bible* © 1966 by Darton Longman & Todd Ltd and Doubleday and Company Ltd.